ENGLAND'S
New Wonders
OR
Four Strange and Amazing *Relations* That have lately come to pass in *England*.

I. A strange and Wonderfull Account, of one *Mary Blackstone*, near *Hull* in *York-shire*, who after ten Years Barrenness, was with Child of a Monstrous Birth, and delivered after two Years going of it, it having 3 Heads, each an Eye in the Forehead, Serpents twining about each Neck, 4 Arms, and 4 Legs, each 10 Fingers and Toes on the Hands and Feet; the Privities of Male and Female. With the Examination of the Mother by the Minister, what answer she gave, her prayer and Advice to all Women. *Not to wish for things God sees not Convenient to give, least fearfull punishments overtake them*, With the Text she chose for her Funeral Sermon, before she dyed, and the substance of the Sermon. By *D. Boase*;

II. An Account of a mighty Tempest, and the appearing of a Terrible Fiery Serpent, at *Daighton* Bed *ordshire*

III An account of a mighty Storm of Hail near *Stanford* in *Northampton shire*, which destroyed [illegible] and Fowl wounded divers [illegible] great [illegible], tore up several Miles much Corn and other matters, some of the Hail's being 9 or 10 inches in Compass

IV. An Account of two armies fighting in the Air, in *Britany* in *France*. All very terrible and wonderful.

JAN

Licensed according to Order.

LONDON, Printed for *J. Blare* at the *Looking Glass* on *London-Bridge*: and Reprinted at *ABERDEEN* by JOHN FORBES, *Anno DOM.* 1697.

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CHAP. I.

A Strange and Wonderfull Account of a Monsterous Child with 3 Heads, 4 Arms 4 Leggs, and Eyes in its Forehead, ten Fingers and as many Toes on each Hand and Foot, born near Hull *in* York-shire. *Of the Mothers Confession, Prayer and Funerall Sermon, &c.*

STrange and wonderfull are many things we frequently see and hear of, to the astonishment and amazing of Mankind: Yet if we rightly consider, why GOD sends, or suffers such things in the world, they may turn to our advantage, to warn us from going on in sinfull ways, and flee from the wrath that is to come. Where strange Prodigies or Portents are manifested, they are taken usually for *Forerunners* of strange Events, and stranger then what I am about to relate, that have very lately happened, & are attested (for a credible truth) by persons of known integrity I may presume, have been hardly heard of in any of the Modern ages of the world, but to come near to my purpose, and in order, the First that I shall present you with, is a strange and amazing Re-

count, of a Prodigeous Monsterous Birth, which is well attested and communicated to us, in the following manner.

One Mary Blackbour, being married to a Person, at a place near Hull, in Yorkshire, not being past Child-bearing, but in youthfull brisk years, was passionately desirous to have a Child, but God with-held from her the fruit of the Womb, which made her angry, and often use unbecoming expressions; envying those that had Children: and so she continued about ten Years, though her husband was an active man, and likely enough for the business of Generation. At the end of which time, having taken some *provocatives*, and other supposed helps, her belly began to rise, but sometimes again would sink all on a sudden; Yet nevertheless, she had a strong conceit she was with Child, and would not be perswaded from the belief, by judicious grave Matrons, who took it for a windy, spungy, or watry mole; which sometimes happens, and is called a false Conception: Yet the usual time of Womens going being expired, and no sign or Labour, of Delivery appearing, she began to grow somewhat ashamed of her boastings; and imprudently uttered rash wishes,

wiſhes or Vows, as ſhe afterward confeſſed; to the giving God a juſt offence, to inflict ſome judgement on her. Yet her belly continued to grow big; and ſhe felt ſtrange pains, unuſual ſweats and faintings, and ſo it continued near two Years, ſo that ſhe fancied ſhe had got a Tinpany, or was ſo believed by others, when indeed it was no otherwiſe, for at the end of two Years, from the beginning of her firſt diſorder and fancying ſhe was with child, ſhe fell into heavy pains as a Women in travel, but greater and more unuſual: this continued ſome time without any apparent hopes of delivery, till the *4th*, of *May* laſt *1696*.

On this day, ſeveral Women being with her, ſhe was with extraordinary pains and labour delivered of a monſterous Child to the affrightment of all that were preſent, having three Heads, wonderouſly miſhappen, each having one Eye ſtanding in the fore-head, and a ſmall twiſting thing in the form of a Serpent about each neck: It had four diſtinct Arms and Hands, and on the hands each ten Fingers: though not quite ſo open or diſtinct, ſome being leſs in proportion then uſual to others, It had alſo four Legs, and four Feet. and tho but one body, yet there appeared ſeams in

it, as if two or more wer joined, or were incorporated into one, the Feet had a proportion of Toes to the Fingers upon the Hands: It had likeways the privy Members of Male and Female, and was exposed to the view of many Eminent persons, who came divers Miles to see it: It was heard to cry from all the Heads at one and the same time, and many other Observations were taken of it.

The Mother by the hard pains of her Travel, and this Affrightment, Sorrow and some other concurrents, fell into a weak Condition, so that her uprising being dispaired of, she desired a Minister might be sent for (which accordingly was done) to pray with her, and to give her Spiritual Consolation which was done. And divers Questions was asked her, as, whether she was any ways sensible how she might offend GOD, that might cause him thus for to afflict her with so Monsterous an Issue? She replyed unto this with a faint languishing Voice, that she believed she had provoked the Divine Goodness, because that she had been too passionately desirous of Children, and now like *Rachel*, had brought forth a *Benoani*, the child of her sorrow: For she had often desired

fired that she might have a Child though she were made an Example, or suffered never so much upon that account: Which she believed now had fallen justly upon her. And thereupon she fell instantly into this

PRAYER.

O Lord God of infinit Mercies, forgive the sins of my rashness and vain desires, blot out my iniquities, and lay not my sins unto my charge, but give me patience in all my sufferings: And grant me, O Lord, if it shall be thy good pleasure, for to restore me to my former Health, that I may live Vprightly, Soberlie, and in a sincere Godlie Life, more then heretofore I have done. But O Lord, however it shall please thee to deal with me, either in Life or Death, I do freely and chearfullie resign up my Soul and Body to thy most Mercifull Disposall, and through the Mercies and Mediation of thy onely Son, Iesus Christ, my ever blessed Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Then she Exhorted all that came to visite her, especially Women, to be contented with what GOD was pleased to send, or bestow on them: Not to be too vehement in their desires after any thing this world can afford, but keep all their wishes and desires within bounds

that they may be pleasing to Almighty God, who knows best what to give, and what to restrain from us: And not like *Rachell*, to cry out (when God restrains the fruit of the Womb) give me Children or I die: which in some measure, was now her case. And she believed, proceeded from her rash wishes and vehement desire after some Children, desiring for what had happened after death, for that her almost only failing, and what else had happened, calling God to witness she had lived chastly and honestly all her lifetime, as well single as in the Marriage.

And then finding death approaching, she desired a Sermon might be preached at her Funeral, for to exhort all to be careful how they spend their days in Pride, Luxury and Wantonness, least they too sadly repent it in the end: Appointing it from the Words of our Saviour, *Luke* 15. 18. 19 *I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto him: Father I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son, make me as one of thy hired Servants.*

From these words it was inferred, that it is a great sin to fly from God, (as the Prodigal Son did from his Father) on presumption, and

and hopes to live ryotously always: But when this is done, and we see we are straightned and brought to misery under Heavens afflicting Hand, and that our strength and beautie fades, then it is not too late: For the Prodigal Son, after this was received, and that not without Rejoicing. That we ought not to be, however, too confident in any thing as thinking there is any worth in us, that GOD should have so much regard to us, as to take us into his Favour in our greatest need and necessity: When we have squandred away the Prime of our days, and in serving our own Lusts: But that we should seek him early that he may be found of us, and forsake all things for the Love of Christ: that when we come to dye, we may live with him Eternally. He exhorted the good Women present not so much to desire Children, as to consider when they have them, to bring them up in the fear of the Lord: *Rachel* was passionat, when she found she bare no Children to *Iacob*, and so, for that she said, *Give me Children or I dye*. And indeed she had her last Son *Benjamin*, to her sorrow, for in her Child bed she dyed: And thus it might be the case of this woman now departed. And so concluded all with good

and

and ſober Advice, to leave off our ſins and follies, and turn to God with all ſpeed, that he may receive us into the Everlaſting Arms of Love, *Amen.*

CHAP. II.

An Account of a Terrible Tempeſt near Laighton-Buzard *in* Bedfordſhire, May 13. *And a ſtrange Fire in the ſhap of a Serpent that drew up the Water out of* Shipton brook.

AT ſundry times, ſtrange fiery Meteors have happened in the Air, and very near the Earth: But I think not in this manner, as I have heard of in any ſtory, and therefore take of it the following Relation. On the 12*th* of *May*, a great Tempeſt happened, accompanied with prodigious Rain, Thunder and Lightning, more terrible then has been known for many years before, which occaſioned the next day violent floods of Water, by coming down the Hills, and overflowing the Brooks and Rivers; But that which is moſt remarkable, is, that after a prodigious clap of Thunder about Noon, there broke out (as from a cloud) a long ſtream of Fire, which appeared greater as it came nearer to the Earth, forming it ſelf into the ſhape of a prodigious Firie Serpent that appeared, the Tail dragging on the ground, making a noiſe like a Whirl-wind ſindging the Graſs in its way, but

but that which formed the Head and upper part, was elevated as high as the highest Trees, or *Leighton Steeple*, and in the body of the fiery Serpent, something could be seen and plainly discerned, working as if so be it had been cased up in a glass, whilst a very terrible smoak ascended, and still it moved on, to the great terrour and amazement of the people, till it came unto *Shipton Brook*, where the Tail dragging on the Water caused a terrible hissing, and spouted up the Water a great height, dividing as it were, the Brook in its passage over, and the evaporated water fell down in small Rain, a great compass, and immediately it Thundered and a terrible Storm ensued, in which this body of fire dissipated and vanished. This is attested by divers, who say they were Eye-witnesses of it, and much terrified at so dreadfull a sight, which had it appeared in the night time, it would have been far more dreadfull and amazing.

CHAP. III.

An account of a terrible Storm of Hail, the Stones as big as Goose Eggs near Stanford, *in* Northamptoun-shire, *killing divers Cattle and wounding many People. With a mighty Flood making very great dammage.*

ON the 16*th* of *May*, prodigeous black Clouds began to gather, which over the

the greater part of this, and other Countries adjacent, cauſed a darkneſs, that had it not been ſeen at that time a day, ſo that people were apprehenſive of a violent Storm approaching, and happy it was for many that they had ſuch Notice, for immediatly the Thunder began to bellow and the lightning to rend the Clouds, and with prodigeous flaſhes enlighten the Air, and run along the Ground, when immediatly ſome great drops of Rain fell, which was followed by prodigeous Hail-ſtones which wounded divers that were haſting for ſhelter, killed a great many Fowls, and many ſmall Cattle; Some of theſe ſtones being nine or ten inches in compaſs, of divers forms, ſome ragged, ſome four ſquair, ſome oval, long or round, and ſome again in the ſhapes of divers Inſtruments falling ſo violently, that they beat divers young Trees in pieces, greatly damnadging the Corn, Peaſe, *&c.* and cut off branches of long ſtanding Trees, thicker than ones finger, lying in ſuch prodigeous Quantities in the ways, for a great many hours afterward unmelted, ſo that the Horſe-Carts, Coaches, and Waggons, eſpecially in the narrow ways, could not paſs without great difficulty.

difficultie. The Storm continued about an hour, and damnified a great many Buildings, by beating off the Tiles and Tharch, some scores of Pigeons, Rooks, Daws &c. have been found dead in the fields, killed by the fall of the Stones, and many Horses, Cows and Oxen, were so bruised and wounded that many of them are expected not to live, as also several people who were too far from substantial shelter, or took no timely Warning to get to it. And no sooner were these prodigeous Stones melted, for the Sun shined out hot a little after but the Water came pouring down from the Hills into the Valleys and Plains, so prodigeously, that many Sheep, Swine, and other Cattle were swept away, and driven violently by the Torrent into Meadows, Rivers and other Depths, and there perished: Several Mills were thrown down, that stood on Rivulets, and some people is said to be drowned in them, and for a time there was a fearfull Inundation, which has done much harm to the Grass and Corn, the like for suddenness and Violence not having happened in these parts for many Ages.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

A dreadfull Account of two Armies seen fighting in the Air, near Nantz *in* Britany, *or* France.

STrange and amazing things in this nature, have been seen in Countries, near some Change and Catastrophy to warn them to a timely Repentance of their sins, when the Judgements are hanging over their *heads* before the destruction of *Jerusalem*, Armies (with great blasts of thunder and lightning) were seen coming towards it, and men on horseback (as we find in the *Macchabees*) runing on each other with firie spears & launces & many other histories are full of such prodigies, such a thing happened in *Enland*, before the unnatural Civil wars broke out in 1641, and in *Germanie* it has often happened, and foretun some great calamity.

But

But now it ſeems it is come into *France* near to the place aforeſaid. As Letters from the Marqueſs D' *Laverden* and others ſent to the *French* Court, teſtifie, *viz.* That two Armies were ſeen fighting over the Heath of *Pontive* whilſt a great Body of reſerved men ſtood ſtill: That the Ingagement laſted two hours, to the great Terror and aſtoniſhment of the Spectators, and then vaniſhed away: and it was obſerved the Colours of the one appeared all white, the other of a bloody colour, that former had the *Sun* in its colours, which vaniſhed firſt. and the Truth of the Srory being very well atteſted, it furniſhes abundance of matter of Speculation to all: and there being an account of it printed in *France* upon the people's Conjectures, that the vaniſhing of the Colours with the Sun, In it ſignified the defeat of *Lewis* his great Undertakings; for the Invaſion of *England* and further concluding, that the end of the War would be fatal to their Nation, the thing was ſurpreſſed, and the *Printer* imprisoned. but that ſtopt not the murmour and fears of the Vulgar who being weary of oppreſſion by Taxes, Long for a *Peace*,

F I N I S.